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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,815	02/18/2004	Kevin M. Ferguson	7630 US 1	1492

30078 7590 10/27/2006

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EXAMINER

LE, TOAN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2863

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,815

Applicant(s)

FERGUSON, KEVIN M.

Examiner

Toan M. Le

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/18/04, 7/26/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The method claims do not produce a useful result. It is unclear how the result is being stored, displayed, or used in any useful manner. The claimed invention must produce "a useful, concrete and tangible result" State Street, 149 F. 3d at 1373, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. In order to overcome the rejection, claim language should be added that includes displaying, storing or conveying used in tangible results. To view the new guidelines for 35 U.S.C. 101 please view the following OG notice.

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/2005/week47/patgupa.htm>

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Odenheimer et al. (US Patent No. 4,743,844).

Referring to claim 1, Odenheimer et al. disclose a method of automatically setting gain and offset for the measurement and display of a signal comprising the steps of:

acquiring the signal (col. 6, lines 24-41);

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defining a region of interest within the acquired signal;
determining max and min values for the acquired signal within the region of interest (col. 14, lines 47-67 to col. 15, lines 1-20);
testing the max and min values for clipping on a display (col. 15, lines 21-35);
calculating from the max and min values a gain and offset for the signal when either the max or min value clips in the testing step (col. 15, lines 36-49); and
applying the gain and offset to the signal in the acquiring step (col. 15, lines 50-68 to col. 16, lines 1-8; col. 17, lines 1-18).

As to claim 2, Odenheimer et al. disclose a method of automatically setting gain and offset for the measurement and display of a signal further comprising the step of reiterating the determining, testing, calculating and applying steps using the gain and offset from an immediately prior calculating step until a criterion is satisfied (col. 13, lines 26-68 to col. 14, lines 1-46).

Referring to claim 3, Odenheimer et al. disclose a method of automatically setting gain and offset for the measurement and display of a signal wherein the criterion comprises neither max and min value clips in the testing step (col. 15, lines 21-49).

As to claim 4, Odenheimer et al. disclose a method of automatically setting gain and offset for the measurement and display of a signal wherein the criterion comprises a number of iterations equaling a specified maximum (col. 13, lines 26-68 to col. 14, lines 1-46).

Referring to claim 5, Odenheimer et al. disclose a method of automatically setting gain and offset for the measurement and display of a signal wherein when only one of the max and min values clips in the testing step only offset is calculated in the calculating step in subsequent

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iterations until either both max and min values clip or neither clip (col. 15, lines 21-68 to col. 16, lines 1-8).

Conclusion

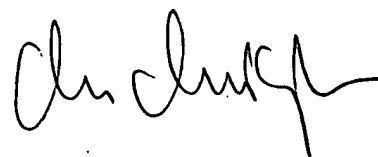
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan M. Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-2276. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Toan Le

October 16, 2006



MICHAEL NGHIEM
PRIMARY EXAMINER